

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Lesley Malone

Asst. Public Information Officer/DPW

317-677-6469

[lesley.malone@indy.gov](mailto:lesley.malone@indy.gov)

## **CITY KICKS OFF KNOZONE SEASON WITH AWARENESS PROGRAM IN SCHOOLS**

INDIANAPOLIS – The City of Indianapolis kicked off the Knozone season today by showcasing outreach efforts taking place in Indianapolis Public Schools. Air quality affects the lives of students and residents of Indianapolis every day. Because of this, the City's Knozone Program developed a new educational toolkit as a fun way for children in grades 1-4 to learn about air, air quality, and air pollution. Each toolkit contains the materials for four in-classroom interactive experiments, along with puzzles that reinforce the lesson concepts and copies of the City-produced children's book, "Air Schmair."

"Incorporating children in air quality education is a great way to ensure future generations understand the importance of having healthy air to breath and how to maintain reduced air emissions in their city," said Monica Dick, Manager of Air Planning for the Office of Sustainability.

During Knozone season, which begins with the warmer temperatures and longer days of spring, the City's air quality staff monitors for increased levels of ground-level ozone. The Office of Sustainability offer tips on how Marion County residents can help maintain the City's air quality during Knozone season and year round.

When the City's air quality staff expects pollutants to exceed federal standards, the City will call a Knozone Action Day. On these days, those who are especially sensitive to air pollution are encouraged to reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors. Sensitive groups include children, senior citizens, people with breathing-related illnesses such as asthma, and those who are active outdoors. Everyone has a role in improving Indianapolis' air quality, not only on Knozone Action Days, but all year long. You can help by:

- Carpooling and combining errands
- Using public transportation such as IndyGo
- Filling gas tanks and mowing after 6 p.m.
- Reducing the use of chemicals or paints that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Avoid idling whenever possible
- Turning lights off when not in use

The City of Indianapolis offers a free e-mail notification service to alert that a Knozone Action Day has been called. To receive email notification of Knozone Action Days, sign up at [www.indy.gov/knozone](http://www.indy.gov/knozone) or call 327-4AIR. A media tool kit is available online for further questions regarding Knozone Action Days.

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